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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 168
By Ferguson

A RESOLUTION To honor James S. Williams on his retirement
after thirty-nine years of volunteer service to
Dixie Youth Baseball.

WHEREAS, It is fitting that this General Assembly should specially honor and recognize those fine citizens who volunteer their time and resources for the benefit of their communities and this State; and

WHEREAS, James S. Williams is one such estimable person who has been instrumental in the development of Tennessee's youth; he is retiring from his involvement with Dixie Youth Baseball after thirty-nine years of active service to that organization and Tennessee's young athletes; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Williams has served Dixie Youth Baseball in numerous capacities; in his local league, he was a Coach, Manager, and League President for 22 years; and

WHEREAS, A recognized leader in the field of youth athletics, Mr. Williams served as Assistant Director of District 7 from 1970-82, and as Director from 1982-92; in 1992, he became a National Director of Dixie Youth Baseball; and

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WHEREAS, Actively involved with Babe Ruth Baseball for thirteen years, James S. Williams founded Babe Ruth District 4 and served as its director from 1969-79; and

WHEREAS, He was a member of the TSSAA Umpire Association and umpired softball and baseball at the high school at youth levels, earning the respect of coaches, players, and his peers for the quality of his work and his astute judgment; and

WHEREAS, James S. Williams also made significant contributions to Tennessee's youth leagues through his membership in the Kingston Optimist Club; he supervised the operation of the Dixie Youth, Babe Ruth, and Girls' Softball Programs, in addition to the reconstruction of several playing fields; and

WHEREAS, As an Optimist, he also contributed significantly to such programs as the High School Senior Scholastic Awards Dinner, Christmas Baskets, Shoes for Children, and Optimist Summer Youth Program, of which he was Director from 1969-84; Mr. Williams was honored by his fellow Optimists as Optimist Man of the Year in 1976, and he was also presented with a Life Membership in Optimist Club International; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Williams was a member of the Kingston Park and Recreation Commission for sixteen years, served as its Chairman for fourteen years, and was a part-time Park and Recreation Director for fourteen years; during his tenure with the Commission, Kingston enjoyed a tremendous increase in the quantity and quality of available recreational facilities and programs; and

WHEREAS, He served admirably with the Tennessee Valley Authority's Kingston Steam Plant before taking a well-deserved retirement after thirty years of astute service; and

WHEREAS, An active and devout Christian, Mr. Williams has been a member of the Kingston United Methodist Church for twenty-two years; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his praiseworthy life, James S. Williams has utilized many of his substantial talents in service to others, and as a result of his efforts, many of Tennessee's youth have been exposed to the many benefits of recreation and athletic competition and learned the

values of hard work, dedication, and team work that have facilitated success throughout their lives; and

WHEREAS, It is because of the benevolent efforts of people such as Mr. Williams that Tennessee has earned recognition as the "Volunteer State," and such charitable citizens are worthy of the admiration and praise of the people of this State; and

WHEREAS, In 1985, Governor Lamar Alexander appointed James S. Williams as a Tennessee Colonel in recognition of his tremendous contributions to Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, This General Assembly finds it proper to pause in its deliberations to recognize Mr. Williams for a lifetime of community service and leadership; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor James S. Williams upon his retirement from thirty-nine years of volunteer service to Dixie Youth Baseball, thank him for his contributions to the citizens of this State, and wish him much continued success and happiness in all of his endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.